



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

April 20, 2020

Dear Members, Families, and Friends:

Greetings from the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. I'd like to thank you all for helping us to continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for our members and staff during this COVID-19 pandemic situation.

I am grateful to be able to report that we continue to have **zero** cases of COVID-19 at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. This includes both staff and members. Over the past several weeks we have had some staff who have been feeling ill, who have not come to work, and have been tested. All were thankfully negative. We've also had some members who have gone to the hospital for unrelated illnesses who were tested as a precaution. Again, we are thankful none have been positive.

As you know, the Safer at Home order in Wisconsin has been extended to May 26, 2020. We also continue to abide by the guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control, and the White House. This means that unfortunately, we will continue to prohibit visitors from coming to our facilities. We understand your disappointment in not being able to visit with your loved one in person, but the only way to prevent the spread of this virus is to limit contact between individuals. By limiting the number of people who come into our Homes, we are limiting the risk to everyone living and working here.

We are looking forward to a time when we can bring back visitors and volunteers, the people who help make Union Grove a wonderful place to live. It's not the same here without all our friends and family. As soon as we receive guidance from the experts, we will be working to welcome back visitors in the safest way possible.

We want you to know that everyone here really enjoys all the calls, emails and video chats. We do have iPads available for members to use if they do not have a personal device. Please work with the team on your loved ones' unit to decide if you would like to FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom. We will do what we can to accommodate those requests during this time. Finally, despite some confusing information last week, we also do allow **closed or distanced window** visits if you'd like to say hello from outside of the building. But please exercise good judgement and follow all social distancing protocols if you choose to come by.

As always, we look forward to the day when we can see you in person again!

Homes Division Administrator